

Little Philmont Sample Agenda

After you have completed the priesthood leadership conference at Philmont, it will be your responsibility to help communicate what you learned during your training to the other priesthood leaders in your stake. This local training is often called “Little Philmont” and should take place on a single day, with meetings that last up to six hours. Stake presidencies, with the help of the member of the high council in charge of the stake Young Men presidency, should prayerfully consider the overall objective of this training experience. As you plan, decide on the focus and direction of the meeting and any training you feel is important to include.

Do not try to replicate or repeat all the training you received at Philmont. Rather pay attention to the revelation and promptings at the training, and avoid trying to fill this time with too much information. It may help you to consider the specific needs of the young men within your stake. As you prepare for this meeting with the help of the Spirit, you will find that your “Little Philmont” will inspire, uplift, and motivate the leaders of the wards and branches within your stake. Your overall goal should always help inspire others to minister and guide the young men in your area along the path that leads to Melchizedek Priesthood ordination, temple blessings, full-time missions, and lifelong discipleship in the Lord’s Church.

As you plan, consider this direction:

“Where Scouting is authorized by the Church, quorums may participate in Scouting activities during Mutual. Scouting should help young men put into practice the gospel principles they learn on Sunday” (*Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], 8.13.4).

“Scouting can help young men and boys enhance close relationships with their families and the Church while developing strong and desirable traits of character, citizenship, and physical and mental fitness. Under priesthood leadership, Scouting should complement the efforts of Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Primary classes in building testimonies in young men and boys. Scouting under Church sponsorship should become an extension of the home, Primary classes, and Aaronic Priesthood quorums. Scouting functions as part of the Church’s activity program for boys and young men. Scouting activities should be planned to fulfill gospel-centered purposes” (*Scouting Handbook for Church Units in the United States*, rev. ed. [2015], 1.1).

Philmont: Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting

In cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America, the Church holds a priesthood leadership conference on Scouting at the Philmont Scout Ranch, in Cimarron, New Mexico. This weeklong training is for members of the stake presidency members. The training emphasizes the priesthood basis for Scouting in Church units and teaches how Scouting can be used to reinforce priesthood purposes and gospel principles.

Little Philmont

(approximately 6–7 hours)

General Session (approximately 60 minutes)

Flag Ceremony

Presiding:

Welcome:

Opening Hymn:

Invocation:

1. Strengthening Boys and Young Men of the Church
2. Purposes of Activities for the Aaronic Priesthood

Group Sessions (Choose two or three of the following 50-minute sessions)

1. Aaronic Priesthood Presidency and Quorum Meetings
2. The Cub Scout Program
3. Scouting for 11-Year-Old Boys
4. The Boy Scout Program for Deacons Quorums
5. The Varsity Program for Teachers Quorums
6. The Venturing Program for Priests
7. Scouting Committees, Internet Resources, and Finances
8. Safety

Snack Break or Lunch (15 to 30 minutes)

Concluding General Session (60 to 90 minutes, depending on the breakout sessions)

1. Bind Yourselves to Act: Therefore, What? (Breakout sessions with wards optional)
2. Keynote Speaker

Closing Hymn: "Rise Up, O Men of God," *Hymns*, no. 324

Benediction:

Topics to Consider

Priesthood Purpose

Vision for the Aaronic Priesthood
Duty to God / Come, Follow Me
Preparation for the priesthood (11-year-old boys)
Strengthening the Aaronic Priesthood
Aaronic Priesthood leadership and keys
Internet resources for youth activities
Training stake and ward leaders
Safety in Church activities
Learn, act, share
Bind yourself to act: therefore, what?
Shepherds and mentors
Financing activities
Missionary preparation

Scouting Purpose

Primary and Cub Scouts
11-year-old Scouts
Boy Scouts and Deacons
Varsity Scouts and Teachers
Venturing and Priests
LDS/BSA relations and the role of stake
Scouting committees
Training
Safety
Financing Scouting
Strategies for smaller units
Real growth through Scouting
Internet resources